

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
PA-01 PRS-01 /103 W

-----087657 071822Z/42

R 071440Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9548

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, UR

SUBJECT: SHORTCOMINGS IN SOVIET OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION

1. EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA (NO. 28) DISCUSSES CONTINUING
SHORTCOMINGS OF SOVIET EXPLORATION OF NEW OIL AND GAS
DEPOSITS. IF DISCOVERY OF NEW RESERVES IS TO KEEP PACE
WITH EXPANDING PRODUCTION, THE ARTICLE ARGUES, RELATIVELY
UNEXPLORED AREAS MUST BE SEARCHED MUCH MORE CONSISTENTLY.

2. THE ARTICLE WAS CO-AUTHORED BY V. KRYMOV, DEPUTY CHIEF
OF THE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION OF THE
GEOLOGY MINISTRY AND T. ROMANOVSKAYA OF THE ALL-UNION
INSTITUTE OF THE ECONOMICS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION. IT FOCUS IS THE LONG-STANDING
LACK OF GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATORY DRILLING
IN REGIONS FAR FROM KNOW OIL AND GAS DEPOSITS. SUCH
WORK--GENERALLY EQUIVALENT TO "WILDCAT" OPERATIONS IN THE
US--IS SCHEDULED TO INCREASE IN VOLUME DURING THE TENTH
FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO ALMOST THREE TIMES THAT OF 1971-75.

3. HOWEVER, THE AUTHORS INDICATE THAT EXPLORATION IS STILL
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PLAGUED BY SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS. UNTIL SOPHISTICATED
GEOPHYSICAL MAPPING TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER IMPROVED EQUIPMENT
BECOMES WIDELY AVAILABLE TO EXPLORATION CREWS, MOST
EXPLORATORY WORK WILL REMAIN CONCENTRATED IN AREAS NEAR
KNOW DEPOSITS, WHERE ADDITIONAL LARGE RESERVES ARE
UNLIKELY TO BE FOUND. THE AUTHORS BLAME SEVERAL SOVIET
MINISTRIES FOR NOT SUPPLYING THE DIGITAL COMPUTERS AND

SUPPORT EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR MAPPING OF DEEP STRUCTURES IN NEW REGIONS. THEY ALSO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE CONTINUING LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRIES OF OIL, GAS AND GEOLOGY IN PLANNING FOR SUFFICIENT GEOPHYSICAL WORK.

4. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE ESSENTIALLY REVIEWS OLD PROBLEMS. IT DOES REFLECT, HOWEVER, THE GROWING SOVIET CONCERN WITH DECLINING EXPLORATION RESULTS--PARTICULARLY FOR OIL-- AND THE REALIZATION THAT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED BOTH TECHNOLOGICALLY AND ORGANIZATIONALY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, EXPLORATION
Control Number: n/a
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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW09766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0944
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1938473
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHORTCOMINGS IN SOVIET OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION
TAGS: ENRG, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb5ea66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009